

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

FRIDAY, March 26, 1869.

The adjournment of the stock boards and the Gold Exchange over Good Friday confined operations to the street, but the great inclemency of the weather deprived the market of anything like business. A few sales of gold were made at 134½, and some suspected "washers" took place at 134½. Prices of stock were almost precisely the same as at the close on Thursday. Pacific Mail was 88 bid and New York Central was quoted 162½ a 163½. Foreign exchange was dull at the last quotations. The Cuban demonstration was probably partially influential in making gold a little firmer, but those who needed the precious metal to-day had to pay a little more than they would have done had there been a full market. There were only a few sales of governments at a concession of an eighth to a quarter per cent on the figures of Thursday evening. Money was quite active. Seven per cent coin interest was freely paid by those who were unlucky enough to be among those who had their loans called. The banks and private bankers were open, but transacted a limited amount of business. The stock houses, as a general thing, were closed. The exceptions were firms expecting the presentation of drafts. The remark was generally made that the day should be a legal holiday.

It is so in London, with which New York is now so intimately connected, and the business community of Wall street would be accommodated by it. The annoyance of waiting for expected drafts during a semi-holiday would thus be obviated. The Legislature has the opportunity of enacting the change. A petition was talked of to-day to be sent up to Albany, and the president of a prominent bank said he would sign it. The closing prices for governments were as follows:—United States sixes, 1861, registered, 115½ a 116; do, coupon, 116 a 116½; do, five-twelves, registered, 113 a 113½; do, coupon, 113½ a 114; do, 1864, 114 a 114½; do, 1865, 114½ a 115; do, new, 1864, 114 a 114½; do, 1867, 113½ a 114; do, 1868, 113½ a 114; do, ten-forties, registered, 104½ a 105; do, coupon, 105 a 105½; currency bonds, 104 a 104½.

The bill for a redistribution of the currency to meet the increasing wants of the South and West is hardly likely to meet with favorable consideration during the present session of Congress, even if the all-powerful influence of the national banks in the Eastern and Middle States were not thrown against it. The diminished quantity of greenbacks in Northern financial centers is due in a great measure to the increasing demands of the South. A Chicago Journal says that "during the winter a large amount of currency was sent to the Southern States to move the cotton crop, very little of which has come back and much of which will not come back. The people of the South have grown comparatively rich in the last eighteen months. Their increase of capital in products has given them the ability to own more circulating capital in the shape of greenbacks, and it may be safely assumed that a larger portion of the paper money circulation is permanently absorbed there than there was a year ago. It was hoped that this new wealth of the South would be made one of the means of again bringing gold and silver into circulation. During last fall the New Orleans and Mobile papers were urging the planters to stipulate for gold in all sales of cotton, and there was considerable complaint because the law was supposed to regard coin contracts illegal, and the cotton merchants of New Orleans held meetings for the purpose of encouraging the transaction of the cotton business on a gold basis in spite of the law. Their ardor, however, seems to have cooled down since it was discovered that coin contracts are legal. They are like the Chicago Chamber of Commerce and the 'decennial system'; they wanted it until they found they could get it, and then they did not want it as badly as they thought they did."

Philadelphia Ledger of this morning says that the demand for money on Thursday continued active and quite beyond the ability of the banks to meet and keep within the bounds of prudence. Rates on call loans were quoted 6½ to 7 per cent, which are low as compared with New York. The higher rates of interest in the metropolis must tend to the reshipment of the funds which went to Philadelphia for the account of the Camden and Amboy Company, after the recent negotiation of \$300,000 sterling exchange. The Ledger has the following interesting particulars with reference to this loan:—

The company has recently applied for an increase of millions of capital, and has negotiated a loan in Europe for about \$2,000,000, the proceeds of which are to be applied to the payment of the purchase of Harbours, a large sum being required for the purchase of the property at Jersey City. The whole of this property will probably never be required for the uses of the company, and little, if any of it, will be required for the purposes of the company's business, the natural result of its connections, it had to be taken when it could be had at a reasonable price. The purchase of the property will be a long time, and will command, even now, more than the company pays for it. A portion of it, too, is productive; so that the cost of carrying it is not a heavy one. This sterling loan, just negotiated, is not a mortgage loan. It is simply a company bond.

The Chicago money market of Wednesday is thus reported by the Post of that city:—

There is no change to note in the tone or condition of the local money market. The demand for loans is still pressing, and the banks are overwhelmed with appeals they are entirely unable to satisfy, and none but those having connections with the banks can find any encouragement. So close and stringent has the market become that very good paper is sold to outside note brokers at a discount of 10 to 15 per cent. Bankers unite in declaring the market more stringent, and the loanable funds more reduced, than for any time during the last year. The present law of Congress, which renders it unsafe to draw temporarily from their reserve funds, has increased their difficulties, and in many quarters the market is sharply contracted. The demand for loans with sales among banks at 600 per cent, 100,000 premium. Counter rates are quoted at 1-10th of one per cent discount buying, and 1-10th of one per cent premium selling.

The earnings of the Western Union Railroad during the third week in March were:—

1868.	1869.
\$11,500.	\$11,500.

The directors of the Lake Shore Railway Company have declared a dividend of ten per cent on the capital stock of the Cleveland, Painesville and Ashtabula Lake Shore Railway, and the Cleveland and Toledo Railroad companies, payable in the new seven per cent thirty year bonds of the company on the 20th day of April, 1869, to such persons as may have been holders of the stock of said companies at the close of the transfer books on the 1st day of April, 1869.

In the Rhode Island Legislature the House has granted to the Boston, Hartford and Erie Railroad Company the right to build a railroad from Providence to the State line in Cumberland, thence to connect with the company's present road to Boston, thus forming a second railroad between Providence and Boston.

The City Council of St. Louis has granted to the Iron Mountain, North Missouri, and Pacific Railway companies the right to extend their tracks and connect them on the levee. The Council has also granted to the North Missouri the right to lay a track to the river landing in the northern part of the city, where laden cars will be transferred across the river to the St. Louis and Chicago road.

The Boston Railroad Times gives the following interesting summary of railway matters in the State of Massachusetts:—

1867.	1868.
Number of companies, 51.	51.
Length of roads, miles, 1,445.	1,478.
Aggregate capital, \$50,000,000.	\$50,000,000.
Amount paid in, 74,000,000.	81,700,000.
Aggregate cost of roads, 98,000,000.	105,140,000.
Total revenue, 21,500,000.	22,700,000.
Funded and floating debt, 20,000,000.	35,210,000.
Surplus earnings on hand, 5,800,000.	5,420,000.

It thus refers to an evil of which we have had a prominent instance quite near home:—

Most of the companies charge all new engines and cars to expense, and the cost of repairs is added to them very largely. It leaves the financial situation of such much stronger. We are inclined to agree with this policy in not carrying out too great a length, so far as the good of the public is concerned, as some of the companies take the sums thus expended for a series of years, and then the aggregate in cost at a special dividend, thus increasing the amount of capital upon which the public is required to pay dividends. This is manifestly very unfair to the public, and is fast becoming wrong of such magnitude as to call for legislative interference.

A Western paper, speaking of railway enterprise in Illinois, says:—

We notice some important railway movements in Illinois. One looks to a continuous line of rail from

New Orleans to Chicago, so that trains will pass from one to the other in forty-eight hours. It is thought one can be "carried from one terminus to the other without break." A bulk of a road is in process of construction from New Orleans to Chicago, and the Legislature has passed a bill to authorize a company to be organized from Danville, through Jasper county, Richmond county, by way of Olney to opposite Paducah, on the Ohio River. The Ohio River has been chartered a company to construct a bridge over the Ohio river at Paducah, the Congress of the United States has authorized the construction of this bridge, which will be commenced this summer. It will run the continuous line of rail from Chicago through Danville, Olney and Paducah to the Ohio River. This road, when completed, will be a better through route to and from New Orleans and Chicago than the Illinois Central, and there is no immediate prospect of its being transferred to steamboats. And it will be built, as the people along the route are determined to put it through.

The receipts for customs and the receipts, payments and balances at the Sub-Treasury in this city for the expired portion of the week have been as follows:—

Customs House.	Sub-Treasury.
March 22, \$303,699.	\$303,699.
March 23, \$1,570,570.	\$1,570,570.
March 24, \$1,570,570.	\$1,570,570.
March 25, \$1,570,570.	\$1,570,570.
March 26, \$1,570,570.	\$1,570,570.

The value of the imports of dry goods at this port for the week ending March 25 compares with the previous week as follows:—

Entered for consumption...	\$2,116,210	\$1,373,481
Withdrawn.....	818,534	502,548
Warehoused.....	502,836	610,814

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

FRIDAY, March 26—P. M.

BUILDING MATERIALS.—The market for all articles coming under this classification underwent no change of significance. Laths were in light supply, and, being in fair request, prices were steady at 63 1/2, at which price sales were effected of \$50,000 to arrive. Eastern spruce was firm at \$24 a \$26 for common to choice schedules, with a fair inquiry and small supply. Lime was steady at \$1 3/4 for common and \$2 for lump, while Rosendale cement was firm at \$2 3/4 to \$3. Bricks were firmer and in light stock, North River and Maryland, \$12 a \$13; Pennsylvania, \$12 a \$13; Ohio, \$12 a \$13; and Philadelphia front at \$4 a \$5.

SPICES.—The market was in light stock and prices were steady at \$40, though we heard of no sales of moment. Pepper, black, was in light stock, and prices were steady at \$10 a \$11; white, \$12 a \$13; nutmeg, \$14 a \$15; cloves, \$16 a \$17; and allspice, \$18 a \$19. The market was in light stock and prices were steady at \$40, though we heard of no sales of moment.

GRAIN.—The market was in light stock and prices were steady at \$1 1/2 a \$1 3/4 for common and \$2 for lump, while Rosendale cement was firm at \$2 3/4 to \$3. Bricks were firmer and in light stock, North River and Maryland, \$12 a \$13; Pennsylvania, \$12 a \$13; Ohio, \$12 a \$13; and Philadelphia front at \$4 a \$5.

COFFEE.—The market was in light stock and prices were steady at \$1 1/2 a \$1 3/4 for common and \$2 for lump, while Rosendale cement was firm at \$2 3/4 to \$3. Bricks were firmer and in light stock, North River and Maryland, \$12 a \$13; Pennsylvania, \$12 a \$13; Ohio, \$12 a \$13; and Philadelphia front at \$4 a \$5.

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SUGAR.—The market was in light stock and prices were steady at \$1 1/2 a \$1 3/4 for common and \$2 for lump, while Rosendale cement was firm at \$2 3/4 to \$3. Bricks were firmer and in light stock, North River and Maryland, \$12 a \$13; Pennsylvania, \$12 a \$13; Ohio, \$12 a \$13; and Philadelphia front at \$4 a \$5.

WHEAT.—The market was in light stock and prices were steady at \$1 1/2 a \$1 3/4 for common and \$2 for lump, while Rosendale cement was firm at \$2 3/4 to \$3. Bricks were firmer and in light stock, North River and Maryland, \$12 a \$13; Pennsylvania, \$12 a \$13; Ohio, \$12 a \$13; and Philadelphia front at \$4 a \$5.

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OATS.—The market was in light stock and prices were steady at \$1 1/2 a \$1 3/4 for common and \$2 for lump, while Rosendale cement was firm at \$2 3/4 to \$3. Bricks were firmer and in light stock, North River and Maryland, \$12 a \$13; Pennsylvania, \$12 a \$13; Ohio, \$12 a \$13; and Philadelphia front at \$4 a \$5.

BUCKWHEAT.—The market was in light stock and prices were steady at \$1 1/2 a \$1 3/4 for common and \$2 for lump, while Rosendale cement was firm at \$2 3/4 to \$3. Bricks were firmer and in light stock, North River and Maryland, \$12 a \$13; Pennsylvania, \$12 a \$13; Ohio, \$12 a \$13; and Philadelphia front at \$4 a \$5.

PEAS.—The market was in light stock and prices were steady at \$1 1/2 a \$1 3/4 for common and \$2 for lump, while Rosendale cement was firm at \$2 3/4 to \$3. Bricks were firmer and in light stock, North River and Maryland, \$12 a \$13; Pennsylvania, \$12 a \$13; Ohio, \$12 a \$13; and Philadelphia front at \$4 a \$5.

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS.

NEW YORK, March 26, 1869.

There was but one sale yesterday in the real estate market, in which the subject was particularly interesting. It was a lot of 100,000, corner of Twelfth and Third streets, Mount Vernon, to George W. Duryea, for \$1,200. The lot was sold by the late owner, Mr. J. W. Whitely, who had been in possession of it for many years. The lot was sold for \$1,200, which was a very low price for a lot of that size and location. The lot was sold by the late owner, Mr. J. W. Whitely, who had been in possession of it for many years. The lot was sold for \$1,200, which was a very low price for a lot of that size and location.

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INTERNAL REVENUE.

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